



REAL TIME VERIFICATION SYSTEM (RTVS)  
CLOSURE DOCUMENT:  
OAR – NWS AGREEMENT ON PATH FORWARD



**STATUS:**

- The Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) and the National Weather Service (NWS) concur in the termination of the Real Time Verification System (RTVS) project without a transition from OAR into NWS operations. Scientific advancements and capabilities gained from the RTVS research will be incorporated into the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) project's Network-Enabled Verification Service (NEVS). The NEVS project successfully passed Gate 1 in NWS Operations and Services Improvement Process (OSIP#09-011) on June 23, 2009.
- **POSITION:**
  - OAR and NWS agree that it is not cost-effective to commit the resources necessary to transition RTVS from the Earth Science Research Laboratory's Global Systems Division (ESRL/GSD) to NWS operations. Further, the parties agree that the requirement described by the NWS' Office of Climate, Water, and Weather Services (OCWWS) may be met by incorporating RTVS functionality into NEVS and transitioning NEVS to operations to support the NextGen initial operating capability (IOC).

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

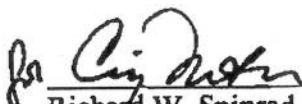
- NOAA's ESRL/GSD developed RTVS with funding from the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Aviation Weather Research Program and the OCWWS Aviation Services Branch.
- The original overarching requirements, as defined in the OSIP Aviation Verification System Statement of Need (<https://osip.nws.noaa.gov/osip/projectDetail.php?projectId=09-011>), included:
  - The system shall provide ongoing, long-term verification measures of all operational aviation products;
  - The system shall provide near real-time information via a web interface to forecasters in the field;
  - The system infrastructure shall be adaptable to support verification of new forecast products as they transition into operations from research and development platforms; and
  - The system must support the need for a continuous data record.
- ESRL/GSD pursued research that supported additional RTVS capabilities that were embraced by NWS, including:
  - NWS shall evaluate forecast performance with respect to user decisions; and
  - NWS shall have an integrated verification technology that brings together NOAA forecast verification systems.
- The purpose for the RTVS transition was to provide an aviation verification capability to the NWS, as required by OCWWS, and transition operational aspects of the RTVS from ESRL/GSD to an operational setting in NWS (e.g., Telecommunication Operations Center).
- ESRL/GSD is currently developing NEVS, which is more comprehensive than RTVS and is expected to completely replace it by 2013.


- NEVS will take over the full functions of RTVS, which include the on-going archive of weather forecast verification statistics for icing, turbulence, ceiling and visibility, and convective forecasts; and
- NEVS could provide additional capabilities that will allow possible extension to other NWS Service areas (e.g., Stats on Demand; <https://verification.nws.noaa.gov>).

**RECOMMENDED PATH FORWARD:**

- The RTVS OSIP project was formally closed on June 23 at the NEVS Gate 1 OSIP meeting.
- ESRL/GSD and the NWS are fully committed to transitioning an initial operating capability of NEVS from research by 2013 with the goal of providing verification information through NEVS to the NWS Weather Information Database.
- The NWS Office of Science and Technology's Science Plans Branch is leading the NEVS project through OSIP (# 09-011).
  - The NEVS project is currently proceeding through Stage 2.
  - Primary OSIP team members include staff from the ESRL/GSD and the OCWWS.
- ESRL/GSD staff resources will focus on the continued development of NEVS.
- ESRL/GSD will continue providing RTVS capabilities until NEVS replaces the full functionality of RTVS.
- The OCWWS Performance Branch will create a link to RTVS from its Stats on Demand system in Silver Spring.
- Funding allotted to ESRL/GSD by the NWS will be used to:
  - Maintain RTVS to meet current FAA verification requirements;
  - Prepare RTVS server at GSD to establish a link to the OCWWS Performance Branch Stats on Demand system; and
  - Provide support to NWS users as needed to interpret statistical results.

As agreed to on 11/16/09 by the Line Office Transition Managers for OAR and NWS:  
DATE

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